Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /033 W
----------091433 300521Z /12
R 291728Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8839
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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BRUSSELS PASS FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, US, UK, ICAO
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BRITISH COMMENT ON MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM (MLS) DISPUTE

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH CIVAIR ATTACHE AND FAA REP ON SEPT. 26, THOMAS MCWIGGAN, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF THE BRITISH CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY, EXPRESSED REGRET AT THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE US AND UK OVER WHICH MLS SYSTEM SHOULD BE CHOSEN FOR FUTURE WORLDWIDE USE, OBSERVING THAT THE TECHNICAL MERITS OF THE TIME-REFERENCE SCANNING BEAM (TRSB) AND DOPPLER SYSTEMS ARE SUFFICIENTLY CLOSE TO EQUAL THAT NON-TECHNICAL MOTIVATIONS HAVE PLAYED A MUCH GREATER ROLE THAN ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED.

2. MCWIGGAN WAS PLEASED TO HAVE RECEIVED ON SEPT. 23 FAA'S OFFER OF THE LINCOLN LAB SIMULATION TAPES, AND WOULD ACCEPT, BUT HE NOTED THAT THE UK CAA STILL HAS RESULTS OF ONLY ONE ON-SITE TEST, THAT AT ATLANTIC CITY, WHICH USED A FULL ARRAY OF ANTENNAS RATHER THAN THE THINNED ARRAY NOW PROPOSED, AND ALSO SEEMED TO BE SUBJECT
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TO SOME DISTORTION. IN GENERAL, HE SAID, SIMULATIONS CAN ONLY SHOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF CERTAIN ASSUMPTIONS ARE TRUE. TO TELL IF THE ASSUMPTIONS ARE TRUE, YOU MUST COMPARE WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS IN THE FIELD UNDER VARIOUS CONDITIONS WITH WHAT THE SIMULATION PREDICTED WOULD HAPPEN.

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3. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS INITIAL TECHNICAL DATA ON PHASE III GROUND EQUIPMENT WAS TO HAVE BEEN READY FOR RELEASE BY FAA BY MID-SEPTEMBER. WHAT IS PRESENT STATUS? (WHILE NOT FORMALLY PART OF TRSB PRESENTATION FOR ICAO, SUCH DATA WILL HOPEFULLY REBUT CRITICS' CLAIM THAT TRSB SYSTEM WILL SUFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM USE OF THINNED ARRAY.) EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED ON PLANS FOR FURTHER TESTING PRIOR TO AIR NAVIGATION COMMISSION MEETING NEXT APRIL.

STREATOR

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, NAVIGATIONAL AIDS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 29-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: LONDON
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 2
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1358426
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: BRITISH COMMENT ON MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM (MLS) DISPUTE
TAGS: EAIR, US, UK, ICAO
To: STATE BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2c274a4b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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22 May 2009
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